developments in Soviet Union on the on-going projects of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) what would be the cost and time overrun in completion of coal project at Singareni Coalfields; and

(c) what steps are being taken to fill up the gap between demand and availability of coal in the Eighth Plan period ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) There are three on-going coal mining projects *viz.* Khadia Opencast (Northern Coalfields Ltd.), Nigahi Opencast (Northern Coalfields Ltd.) and Jhanjra Underground (Eastern Coalfields Ltd.) and one non-mining project viz.Modernisation of Patherdih Washery (Bharat Coking Co. l Ltd.) of Coal India Ltd., financed by the erstwhile USSR. The recent events in USSR have created certain uncertainities in the supply of equipment as well as spare parts for Soviet manufactured equipment. However, it is not likely that this will have serious adverse effect on the implementation of these projects, as negotiations would be held with successor Govts.

(b) No cost and time overrun is presently anticipated in the completion of the on-going Goleti– 182 long-wall project of Singareni Coalfields under bilateral cooperation with the erstwhile Soviet Union.

(c) As per Planning Commission's recent assessment the country's raw coal demand by 1996-97, the terminal year of the Eigth Plan, is estimated at 309.20 million tonnes. The total raw coal production of the country in 1996-97 is tentatively projected at 306.00 Million tonnes. The gap between demand and avail ability of coal in the Eighth Plan period is proposed to be met by drawal from pithead stocks and in case of coking coal for steel plants by imports for blending purposes.

Adequate linkages of coal to the Gujarat Electricity Board

460. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) Whether it is a fact that per month requirement of the Gujarat Electricity Board for coal is about 10 lakhs M.T. for its four Thermel Power Stations;

(b) whether State Government has given representation for giving adequate linkages of coal to its power houses keeping in view the power generation requirements of the State ; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) Based on the annual generation targets for the year,1991-92 finalised with Centrat Electricity Authority by Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB), the average monthly coal requirement for the four thermal power stations of GEB works out 7.9 lakh tonnes. As against this monthly requirement, the average monthly coal despatches to these power station during the period April January, 1992 had been of the order of 6.66 lakh tonnes which works out 84.3% demand satisfaction.

(b) and (c) The power stations authorities have been requesting for increased linkages. The increase in linkages may not necessarily been higher receipts. The materialisation of linkages vis-a-vis the consumption level of power stations are monitored on weekly basis and corrective action taken wherever necessary.

Government's investment in Coal Sector

461. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) What is the number of coal mines operating in public sector ;

(b) what has been the total investment made by Government so far, in all these coal mines as compared to 1990-91 year ;

(c) what has been the amount of loan taken from outside agencies, so far, investment therein indicating the interest being paid annualy thereon; and

(d) what was the amount of profit/loss earned by the coal sector during 1991-92 as compared to 1990-91 year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) Total number of coal mines operating in public sector during 1990-91 was 510.

(b) The toal investment in all the coal mines of Coal Inda Limited (CIL) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Coal and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) under the administrative control of Government of Andhra Pradesh at the end of December, 1991 was Rs. 9986.40 crores (provisional) and Rs. 1143.35 crores (provisional) as against Rs. 9193.50 crores and Rs. 1029.35 crores as on 31-3-1991 respectively.

(c) CIL's outstanding loan as on 31-3-1991 was Rs. 5923.33 crores and that of SCCL was Rs. 801.66 crores. The actual interest paid by CIL during 1990-91 was Rs. 313.64 crores and by SCCL was nil.

(d) During the year 1990-91 CIL and SCCL suffered a loss of Rs. 253.17 crores and Rs. 163.19 crores respectively. Profit or loss figure for 1991-92 can be worked out only after the close of the financial year.

Abolition of Freight Equalisation of Coal

462. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :
SHRI CHATURNAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to do away with frieght equalisation of coal ;

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) At present there is no scheme of Freight Equilisation in force in regard tocoal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increase in the Price of Coal

463. DR. N. THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently increased the price of coal of various grades, if so, what is percentage of such a rise and reasons therefor ;

(b) the extent of resource mobilisation through the increase ;

(c) the prices of coal increased since nationalisation;

(d) the details of impact on the major coal consumers such as power plants etc ; and

(e) the steps taken to increase roductivity and minimise cost of production of coal in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) Yes, Sir ; the inorease in average price in respect of Coal India Limited (CIL) Coal is 29.3% and that of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Coal is 30.6%. The reason for increase is increase in wages and cost of other inputs.

(b) The estimated mobilisation of resources through the increase of price w.e.f. 28-12-1991 is Rs. 480 crores for CIL and Rs. 52.91 crores for SCCL for the remaining period of the year 1991-92.